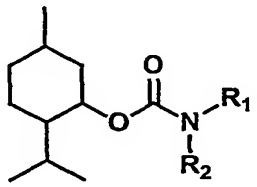
Claims

1. Use as an insect repellent of a compound of the formula



wherein,

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; an aliphatic residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloaliphatic residue having 5 to 14 carbon atoms, or an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic residue aforementioned containing one or more hetero-atoms selected from O, N or S; an aryl or heteroaryl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms and wherein hetero-atoms are selected from O, N or S; or any of the afore-mentioned groups substituted with a group selected from, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{2-4} alkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl as defined above, aryloxy, amino-, amido-, ester, keto-, hydroxyl, and halogen, or

R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring that may optionally contain additional hetero-atoms selected from O, N or S.

2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

Methyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Ethyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Butyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Isobutyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Diethyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Pyrrolidine-1-carboxylic acid (−)-menthyl ester;

Piperidine-1-carboxylic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Morpholine-4-carboxylic acid (−)-menthyl ester;
Phenyl-carbamic acid (−)-menthyl ester; and
3-[(−)-menthoxy-carbonylamino]-propionic acid ester.

3. A compound selected from the group consisting of n-butyl-carbamic acid (-)-menthyl ester; iso-butyl-carbamic acid (-)-menthyl ester; diethyl-carbamic acid (-)-menthyl ester; morpholine-4-carboxylic acid (-)-menthyl ester; and 3-[(-)-menthoxy-carbonylamino]-propionic acid ester.

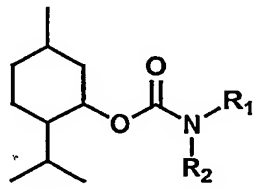
4. A composition comprising a compound as defined in any of the preceding claims in an insect-repellent amount.

5. A composition according to claim 4 comprising at least one additional insect repellent.

6. A composition according to claim 4 or claim 5 comprising additionally at least one insecticide.

7. A composition according to any one of the claims 4 to 6 comprising additionally at least one fragrance ingredient.

8. A method of repelling insects by applying to a substrate a preparation comprising at least one compound of the formula



wherein,

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; an aliphatic residue having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a cycloaliphatic residue having 5 to 14 carbon atoms, or an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic residue aforementioned containing one

or more hetero-atoms selected from O, N or S; an aryl or heteroaryl group having from 6 to 14 carbon atoms and wherein hetero-atoms are selected from O, N or S; or any of the afore-mentioned groups substituted with a group selected from, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{2-4} alkenyl, aryl or heteroaryl as defined above, aryloxy, amino-, amido-, ester, keto-, hydroxyl, and halogen, or

R_1 and R_2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered ring that may optionally contain additional hetero-atoms selected from O, N or S.